



**DANCE COMPANY**

**HANDBOOK**

**2026 - 2027**

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## **PHILOSOPHY & PURPOSE**

Dance Company is a performance and competitive course at Del Rio High School that provides students with opportunities to serve the school and community through advanced dance performance. The program develops confidence, leadership, creativity, unity, and school pride. Members are expected to uphold high standards of character, responsibility, and professionalism both on and off campus.

## **GOALS & EXPECTATIONS**

Dance Company members are expected to maintain physical and mental readiness to perform at all events and to represent Del Rio High School with professionalism and leadership. Members must prioritize academics, demonstrate respect for all individuals, and commit to teamwork, accountability, and a positive attitude.

Members must:

- Adhere to all state, district, school, and Dance Company policies consistently.
- Maintain academic eligibility and good standing throughout participation.
- Show respect toward teammates, directors, staff, and the community at all times.
- Attend and actively participate in all required practices, performances, competitions, and events.
- Communicate absences or conflicts promptly and respectfully with the Director.
- Uphold the Dance Company's image and reputation both in and out of uniform.
- Continuously develop and maintain required dance skills and performance readiness.

## **ELIGIBILITY, TRYOUTS, & COMMITMENT**

### **Eligibility**

Candidates must:

- Be enrolled in SFDR-CISD and attend Del Rio High School.
- Maintain good academic and behavioral standing as required by the district and the University Interscholastic League (UIL).
- Submit all required medical clearances annually, including a physical exam.
- Attend all mandatory tryout clinics, meetings, and submit required paperwork by posted deadlines.

- Meet all financial obligations related to program participation.
- Be enrolled in the Dance /Dance Company course unless otherwise approved for graduation requirements.

### **Tryout Process**

- Tryouts are conducted by qualified judges using a standardized rubric evaluating technique, performance quality, and skill execution.
- Final team placement decisions rest with the Dance Company Director and campus administration.
- The size of Dance Company will be determined annually based on program needs.

### **Transfer Students and Auditions**

Students transferring into SFDR-CISD may seek placement by:

- Applying within ten (10) school days of enrollment to guarantee audition consideration.
- Submitting a letter from their previous director confirming good standing.
- Completing a video or in-person audition to assess skill level.
- Understanding that tryout format and timing depend on enrollment date, availability, and program needs.
- Fulfilling camp or preseason participation requirements as determined by the Director.
- Preparing independently for required dance material if joining after official tryouts, within a one-week preparation time before auditions.
- Providing a letter of recommendation from a teacher, coach, or director during placement.
- Knowing that final placement depends on skill evaluation and team needs.

Students seeking placement after official tryouts must learn required material independently, including designated dance routines (e.g., jazz, lyrical, and hip hop)

- Students will be given one (1) week to prepare, with auditions scheduled the following week
- A letter of recommendation from a current teacher or former coach is required
- Final placement is contingent upon skill evaluation and team availability

- Students who voluntarily withdraw from the Dance Company forfeit eligibility to re-audition or rejoin the team for the remainder of the current school year, except in documented medical circumstances approved by administration.

### **Commitment**

Dance Company membership is a year-round commitment beginning at selection and continuing through the school year. Members must:

- Fully participate in all practices, performances, competitions, camps, and community events.
- Participate as part of Mighty Ram Band during marching season, including all rehearsals, football games, and competitions, travelling with the band as scheduled.
- Place Dance Company commitments above non-school extracurricular activities, with exceptions made only at the discretion of the Director and administration.
- Maintain availability for events potentially outside regular school hours, including weekends, holidays, and school breaks.
- Understand schedules are subject to change and will be communicated as early as possible.

### **LEADERSHIP ELIGIBILITY, RESPONSIBILITIES**

The number of leadership positions (Captain, Co-Captain, Officers) will be determined annually based on program needs.

#### **Leadership Eligibility and Selection**

Leadership roles are reserved for returning members with strong conduct records. Captain candidates are generally upperclassmen with previous leadership experience. Students with histories of insubordination toward directors or staff may be ineligible.

Selection is based on performance and leadership evaluations including:

- An interview assessing communication and attitude.
- Creation and performance of an original dance routine.
- Teaching choreography to judges with counts.
- Demonstrated positive attitude, behavior, and work ethic

## **Leadership Responsibilities**

Leaders are expected to:

- Attend all required practices, summer workouts, events, and leadership meetings.
- Assist the Director with organizational tasks such as attendance tracking and communication.
- Support choreography instruction and team preparation as assigned.
- Model professionalism, reliability, and positive behavior at all times.
- Promote open communication and team unity, with zero tolerance for bullying, hazing, or misuse of authority.
- Report any concerns or conflicts to the Director promptly.

Additional responsibilities will align with specific leadership roles.

## **Accountability**

- All leadership members must sign and adhere to a leadership contract outlining role-specific duties.
- Failure to meet expectations may result in probation, reassignment, or removal from the position at the Director's discretion.
- Removal from a leadership role may result in ineligibility for future leadership positions.

## **ATTENDANCE & ELIGIBILITY**

Members must attend all scheduled rehearsals, practices, performances, fundraisers, camps, competitions, and team events. Attendance is critical for skill development, safety, and team success. Members must:

- Arrive on time, prepared, and ready to perform.
- Communicate absences or tardiness in writing to the Director before the start of the event or school day.
- Attend all mandatory summer camps and workouts; failure to attend may result in loss of performance opportunities during marching season.
- Participate in all assigned fundraising activities.
- Travel and participate with the team at all events unless excused in advance by the

Director.

- Refrain from attending practices or performances on days with unexcused school absences.

### **Excused Absences**

Excused absences include, but are not limited to:

- Personal illness/injury with possible doctor documentation.
- Family emergencies or death in the family.
- School-approved events or activities.
- Pre-approved academic obligations (tutorials, testing).
- Religious observances or significant family events.

Advance notice and documentation are required whenever possible.

### **Medical & Appointment Guidelines**

- Members should schedule appointments outside practice times whenever possible.
- Medical absences require supporting documentation from a U.S. licensed healthcare provider.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences include:

- Work or transportation conflicts.
- Social events such as parties or vacations not aligned with school calendar.
- Non-school-affiliated activities or events.
- Appointments not approved in advance.

Members remain responsible for learning missed choreography and may lose performance privileges if not ready.

### **Consequences**

- Two unexcused absences or any no-call/no-show will result in removal from the next scheduled event.
- Six unexcused absences will result in removal from the Dance Company and loss of end of year recognitions including lettering, awards, and banquet participation.
- Three tardies count as one unexcused absence and affect performance eligibility.

### **Performance Eligibility**

- Missing rehearsals or practices before a performance may result in removal from that performance or routine.
- Absence from routine auditions or placements makes members ineligible for that routine.
- Auditions and/or cuts may be conducted prior to any performance or event to determine participation and placement. Selection will be based on technique, preparedness, performance quality, and overall execution.
- Eligibility depends on a combination of attendance, academic standing, behavior, and readiness.
- Coaches' discretion applies for performance assignments, safety, and readiness.

### **Parent Communication**

Parents/guardians will be notified of attendance concerns—including unexcused absences, no-call/no-show incidents, or patterns of tardiness—and may receive warnings or updates prior to disciplinary measures.

- Communication may occur prior to or alongside disciplinary consequences as a courtesy and to support student success.
- All attendance consequences are subject to review in extenuating circumstances at the discretion of coach(es) and administration.

### **Medical Clearance & Injury Policy**

All members must have current medical clearance prior to participation, including an annual physical exam.

- All injuries, regardless of severity, must be reported to the Director immediately.
- Failure to report may result in restricted or removed participation for safety.
- All injuries, regardless of severity, must be reported immediately to the director. Failure to do so may result in restricted or denied participation.
- Director reserve the right to limit or remove members from practice, performances, or events if medical conditions pose a safety risk.
- Injured members shall not participate without written release from a U.S.-licensed

medical professional. Members must fully comply with medical recommendations and any modified participation guidelines.

- Final decisions about participation related to injury and safety rest with the coach(es) and campus administration.

## **PERFORMANCE & APPEARANCE STANDARDS**

Dance Company members are expected to present a polished, uniform appearance and demonstrate performance readiness at all events. These standards ensure consistency, professionalism, and quality representation of the program.

### **Performance Readiness**

Members must demonstrate mastery of choreography, technical skill, timing, and performance quality prior to any public appearance.

- Placement in routines and performances is based on execution, effort, and preparedness.
- Members who do not meet established standards may be removed from routines or performances at the Director's discretion.
- All members are expected to perform with energy, confidence, and appropriate artistic expression.

### **Appearance Standards**

Dance Company members must maintain a consistent, polished appearance as directed by the Director for all rehearsals, competitions, performances, and official functions. Standards include:

- **Hair:** Styled and secured away from the face as instructed; unnatural colors are prohibited while representing the team.
- **Makeup:** Full performance makeup applied per Director's guidelines to ensure uniformity.
- **Uniforms/Costumes:** Must be clean, complete, properly fitted, and worn exactly as issued.
- **Accessories:** Only items approved by the Director are permitted.
- **Jewelry:** Prohibited unless explicitly authorized.

- **Nails:** Must adhere to length, color, and style requirements set by the Director.
- **Tattoos & Piercings:** No visible tattoos or piercings allowed during performances.

Failure to comply with appearance standards may result in removal from the performance until corrections are made.

### **Costume Policy**

Costumes are issued as Dance Company property and must be cared for at all times.

- Costumes may only be worn at designated performances or approved events and not in public outside these instances.
- Eating and drinking (except water) in costume is prohibited; cover-ups must be worn when consuming food or beverages.
- Costumes are catalogued and assigned; members must return the exact issued costume in proper condition.
- Costumes must be returned neatly (folded or hung) and cannot be altered or washed by anyone other than the Director.
- Costumes and apparel cannot be loaned, shared, or worn by non-members.
- Members are financially responsible for any loss, damage, or destruction of costumes while in their possession.

### **EVENT & GAME DAY EXPECTATIONS**

Dance Company members are expected to maintain focus, discipline, and professionalism during all events, including athletic games, performances, school functions, and community appearances. Failure to adhere to these expectations may result in immediate removal from the current event and/or future participation restrictions.

### **General Conduct**

- Members must remain engaged, attentive, and prepared to perform or support the team at all times during events.
- Socializing, distractions, or disruptive behavior during events are prohibited.
- Members should demonstrate positive sportsmanship and support for teammates, school personnel, and officials.

- Respectful interaction with peers, coaches, staff, spectators, and the public is mandatory.

### **Sideline & Event Behavior**

- Members must stay within designated areas unless granted permission to leave by the Director.
- Cell phone use is prohibited during performances and when actively participating unless specifically approved by the Director.
- Members must promptly and respectfully obey all instructions from the Director, staff, or appointed student leaders.

### **Performance Participation**

- Members must arrive on time, dressed in proper attire or uniform, and fully prepared for all scheduled events.
- Members not actively performing are still required to attend and remain engaged throughout the event unless excused by the Director.
- Failure to meet behavioral, attendance, or participation expectations may result in removal from current or future events.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

Membership in Dance Company is a privilege that requires adherence to high standards of conduct, discipline, and respect. Violations of school, district, or program policies may result in disciplinary measures including strikes/demerits, extra conditioning, suspension from events, probation, or removal from the program.

### **Strike/Demerit System**

- Strikes accumulate throughout the school year and reset at the start of the new school year.
- Possible minor infractions include tardiness, improper attire, jewelry violations, language issues, and cell phone misuse.
- Major infractions such as insubordination, continuous unexcused absences, or inappropriate conduct carry higher strike values or immediate consequences.

### **Examples of Infractions and Strike Values**

- Tardiness (over 3 minutes): 1 strike
- Jewelry violations: 1 strike
- Unexcused absence: 3 strikes
- No-show to practice or event: 5 strikes
- Insubordination: 4 strikes
- Visible tattoos/piercings: 5 strikes, possibly leading to suspension

### **Disciplinary Milestones**

- Accumulation of 10 strikes: Suspension from two games/events; attendance required without participation.
- Accumulation of 15 strikes: Removal from Dance Company for the remainder of the school year.

### **Grounds for Immediate Evaluation**

Certain behaviors bypass the demerit system and are grounds for immediate evaluation and potential removal from the team by coach(es) and administration. These include:

- Inappropriate sexual contact, physical or verbal fighting.
- Public intoxication or possession/consumption of alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, or illegal drugs.
- Any incidents of bullying, hazing, intimidation, or harassment.
- Suspension from school, placement in Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), or expulsion.
- Accumulating two performance suspensions or three academic probations within one school year.

All disciplinary decisions consider the severity and nature of the infraction and are subject to the discretion of the coach(es) and campus administration.

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

### **End of Year Banquet**

The Dance Company program may host an annual End-of-Year (EOY) Banquet to recognize the accomplishments, service, leadership, and contributions of its members.

- Attendance at the EOY Banquet is a privilege and is limited to members in good standing. Good standing includes, but is not limited to, satisfactory attendance, participation, conduct, academic eligibility, and compliance with program expectations.
- Members who are on probation, suspended, removed from the program, or otherwise not in good standing at the discretion of the director may be deemed ineligible to attend the banquet.
- Attendance at the EOY Banquet is not required for membership in the organization.
- The Booster Club, in collaboration with the director, may provide financial support for the banquet and assist with planning and recognition activities.

## **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Member Obligations**

Members and their families are responsible for all costs associated with participation in the Dance Company program. These may include but are not limited to:

- Uniforms (practice and performance attire)
- Camp and clinic fees
- Accessories and equipment
- Travel expenses related to competitions and events
- Any other approved program-related costs

### **Payment and Refund Policy**

- No refunds will be issued upon dismissal, resignation, or withdrawal from the program.
- Outstanding balances must be paid in full prior to eligibility for future tryouts, participation in subsequent seasons, or senior clearance.

### **Uniform and Costume Care**

- All items issued or purchased for participation must be maintained in good condition throughout the year.
- Members missing any required uniform or costume pieces may be prohibited from performing or participating until items are provided.
- Members will be financially responsible for replacement costs of lost or damaged items as determined by the program.

### **Required Purchases**

- Members must purchase specified items (e.g., shoes, apparel, accessories) exactly as directed by the Director.
- Substitutions, alterations, or alternative brands/styles are not permitted and may result in ineligibility.

### **Fundraising**

- Fundraising opportunities may be available to help offset costs, but participation does not guarantee full coverage of required expenses.

***The handbook may be amended as needed by the director and administration. Unaddressed situations will be handled individually, respecting confidentiality. Texas law and SFDR-CISD policies supersede this document.***

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT PAGE**

By signing below, both the dancer and parent/guardian acknowledge that they have read and understand the Fine Arts and Dance Company Handbook for 2026–2027. They agree to follow all guidelines and understand that participation is contingent upon compliance with school, district, and program expectations.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_